announced the enactment of National Employment Guarantee Act to provide a legal guarantee for atleast 100 days of employment to begin with on asset-creating public works programmes every year at minimum wages for atleast one able bodied person in every poor household. The scheme will be implemented in all states of the country. In the interim, it is proposed to launch a new Food for Work programme in 150 districts classified as most backward and identified as areas in immediate need of such a programme.

Uniform wage pattern for beedi workers

2464. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a uniform wage pattern for beedi workers in the country;

(b) if so, what is the present scale of wages; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The minimum wage for scheduled employments including beedi rolling are fixed by the State Governments based on a number of factors like socio-economic and agro-climatic conditions, prices of essential commodities, paying capacity, local conditions etc., which vary from State to State and region to region. Therefore, there is a disparity in the minimum wages in the country.

Enumeration of beedi workers

2465. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps in regard to enumeration of beedi workers in various States;

(b) if so, the details in respect of the State of Orissa; and

(c) the details of the methodology adopted for such enumeration?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c) Issuing of identity cards to the beedi workers is an ongoing